



H1N1 Virus Partner Briefing

Influenza A (H1N1) Virus

June 24, 2009, 5:00 PM

Rhode Island: 124 confirmed positive cases, 37 hospitalized to date, 1 death
National Report: CDC reports 53 states (including DC, Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands) with 21,449 confirmed and probable cases, 87 deaths
International Report: WHO reports 55,867 cases of influenza A (H1N1) infection worldwide, 238 deaths

Reminder: The partner briefing will be distributed on a weekly basis.

- **Travel Advisory:** There are no Travel Health Warnings or Precautions issued by CDC at this time.
- **Guidance for Summer Camps:**
 - All staff and campers should be screened upon arrival at camp.
 - Camp organizers should remind staff and campers to use good hygiene practices consistently.
 - Staff should be given a brief training on monitoring campers and recognizing flu-like symptoms.
 - See Summer Camp Guidance on the HEALTH website:
<http://www.health.ri.gov/pandemicflu/swineflu/Advisory/SummerCampGuidance060109.pdf>
- **General Prevention Measures:**
 - If you have symptoms of influenza-like illness (ILI) (fever plus cough or sore throat), call your doctor and stay home for 7 days after symptoms begin or 24 hours after symptoms have resolved, **whichever is longer**.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and warm water. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand gel.
 - Cough and sneeze into your elbow.
- H1N1 (swine) flu is now widespread in Rhode Island due to the number of sporadic cases and outbreak clusters throughout all five counties in Rhode Island.
- Most influenza-like illness (ILI) in Rhode Island has been mild, although the hospitalization rate is higher with H1N1 infections compared to seasonal flu. Nationally, risk factors for hospitalization of patients with ILI are asthma, COPD, diabetes, immunosuppression, cardiovascular disease, pregnancy, and other special healthcare needs.
- HEALTH continues to request that clusters or outbreaks of ILI in congregate settings (i.e. schools, camps, daycares, etc.), group residences, nursing homes and assisted living facilities be reported to the HEALTH Center for Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases at 401.222.2577 (8:30am-4:30pm) or 401.272.5952 (4:30pm-8:30am).
- HEALTH continues to post advisories and clinical guidance on the H1N1 website. New postings include date posted.
- **General Summer Public Health Precautions:**
 - Parents and other caregivers should provide adequate hydration during summer months and refrain from dressing children too warmly. Adults, especially those 65+ y.o., also should keep well hydrated during summer months.
 - Apply sunscreen and a protective lip balm with an SPF of 15 or higher when in the sun.
 - Avoid mosquitoes and ticks by using repellent with DEET or permethrin and wearing light-colored clothing.
 - Take advantage of summer weather for outdoor physical activity.

For further information go to:

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>; H1N1 Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-8022
- CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>
- WHO at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>